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S E C R E T KUWAIT 001661

SIPDIS

STATE FOR S/CT, INR/NESA, NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1.6X1

TAGS: [PTER](#) [KISL](#) [PREL](#) [KJUS](#) [PINR](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: (S) ISLAMIST EXTREMIST WANTS TO TALK TO U.S., SAYS
MFA

REF: KUWAIT 1500

Classified By: CDA FRANK URBANCIC; REASON 1.6 X1.

[1](#)1. (S) MFA Acting Undersecretary Amb. Khaled al-Babtain convoked CDA May 25 to tell him that Jaber al-Jalahma "has information" for the US Embassy. As reported reftel, DNSA Fran Townsend singled out Jalahma by name during her May 4 meeting with Prime Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed, as an extremist who needs to be stopped; in reply, the PM sought to reassure her that the GOK has him under control.

[1](#)2. (S) We intend to take up this offer promptly. Babtain said the meeting should occur at MFA, for the sake of discretion.

[1](#)3. (S) COMMENT: Babtain made it sound like this was Jalahma's own initiative, but it may very well be that the GOK is putting him up to it, in a bid to persuade us of the PM's argument to Ms. Townsend that the GOK is able to coopt extremists and moderate their behavior.
URBANCIC